

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend Claim 10 as follows.

1. - 9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:

a sensor portion including a plurality of pixels;

an optical black portion including a plurality of optical black pixels;

a scanning circuit effecting scanning for reading out signals of said sensor portion and said optical black portion; and

a decoder for dividing said scanning circuit into a plurality of blocks and ~~outputting a start pulse to~~ controlling said scanning circuit to cause scanning to start at a desired one of the plurality of blocks,

wherein said scanning circuit ~~and said decoder are~~ is arranged ~~such that a signal is transmitted from~~ to start the scanning for said optical black portion and is also arranged to instruct said decoder to start the control of said scanning circuit to ~~said decoder causing said decoder to output the start pulse in response to the signal, after scan~~ said sensor portion when said scanning circuit completes the scanning for reading out the signal of said optical black portion.

11. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein upon receiving a reset pulse, said scanning circuit stops scanning.

12. (Previously Presented): An apparatus according to Claim 10, further comprising:

- a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;
- an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion into digital signals; and
- a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D converter.

13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to Claim 11, further comprising:

- a lens for focusing light onto said sensor portion;
- an A/D converter for converting the signals from said sensor portion into digital signals; and
- a digital signal processor for processing a signal from said A/D converter.